

Message Text

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44

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 OPIC-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3483

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA BTRA GW

SUBJECT: VOLKSWAGEN PLANS FOR INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

1. DURING THE COURSE OF TELEPHONE COVERSATION ON AUGUST 6 CONCERNING PLANS FOR A VISIT TO THE VOLKSWAGEN PLANT IN WOLFSBURG, PRESIDENT TONI SCHMUECKER TOLD CONSULATE OFFICER THAT COMPANY HAS YET TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS CONCERNING "WHERE, WHEN OR WITH WHOM" VOLKSWAGEN WILL SET UP PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN THE U.S. HERR SCHMUECKER SAID THAT THIS IS A "TERRIBLY DIFFICULT DECISION" WHICH CANNOT BE RUSHED. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE REACHED BY THE END OF THIS CALENDER YEAR. ACTUAL PRODUCTION WOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL SOME TIME LATER, BUT PROBABLY WITHIN TWO YEARS.

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2. COMMENT: THE GERMAN MEDIA AND, SOMETIMES, U.S.

SOURCES AS WELL CONTINUE TO BE ALIVE WITH RUMORS ABOUT
WOLKSWAGEN'S DECISION ON THIS KEY SUBJECT. THE SOURCE
OF SOME OF THIS SPECULATION APPARENTLY HAS BEEN HERR
SCHMUECKER HIMSELF. WE FIND IT INTERESTING, THEREFORE,
THAT HE WAS SO CATEGORIC IN HIS STATEMENT THAT NO
DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. BROGAN

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